



December 3, 2018

Dear USC Marshall community,

I am writing to inform you that Jim Ellis will step down from his position as dean of the USC Marshall School of Business, effective June 30, 2019. He will continue to serve as a member of our faculty. I know this news is hard for many to process as he is such a prominent member of our university community.

Because this is a personnel matter we are limited in what we can share about this decision.

This decision regarding Dean Ellis' role at the university was made after careful deliberation. I personally met with Dean Ellis as did several others. In addition, we consulted with outside legal counsel to the Board of Trustees and external human resources experts. At the end of this process, I informed Dean Ellis that he would remain as dean through the end of this academic year, but that a new dean would be appointed for the coming school year.

Over the past decade, Dean Ellis led many positive initiatives. USC Marshall is a world-class business school and the transition to new leadership will be made with a commitment to providing the very best for its students, faculty, staff, and the community it serves.

We sincerely appreciate Dean Ellis' many contributions to USC Marshall as its dean and look forward to his continued contributions as a faculty member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda M. Austin".

Wanda M. Austin
Interim President